



## **ST MARTIN'S PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE: GOVERNING BODY**

(Courtesy of the Independent Schools' Association of Southern Africa)

The Governing Body is the guardian of the School's mission. It is the Governing Body's responsibility to ensure that the mission is relevant and vital to the community it serves and to monitor the success of the School in fulfilling its mission.

The following principles of good practice are set forth to provide a common perspective on the responsibilities of an Independent School's Governing Body. The Governing Body and the Principal work in partnership in fulfilling these principles.

1. The Governing Body adopts a clear statement of the School's mission, vision and strategic goals and establishes policies and plans consistent with this statement.
2. The Governing Body reviews and maintains appropriate bylaws that conform to legal requirements, including duties of loyalty, obedience and care.
3. The Governing Body assures that the School and the Governing Body operate in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, minimising exposure to legal action. The Governing Body creates a conflict of interest policy that is reviewed with, and signed by, individual Governing Body Members annually.

4. The Governing Body accepts accountability for both the financial stability and the financial future of the institution, engaging in strategic financial planning, assuming primary responsibility for the preservation of capital assets and endowments, overseeing operating budgets and participating actively in fundraising.
5. The Governing Body selects, supports, nurtures, evaluates and sets appropriate compensation for the Principal.
6. The Governing Body recognises that its primary work and focus are long-range and strategic.
7. The Governing Body undertakes formal strategic planning on a periodic basis and sets annual goals related to the plan.
8. The Governing Body keeps full and accurate records of its meetings, committees and policies and communicates its decisions widely, while keeping its deliberation confidential.
9. Governing Body composition reflects all stake-holders as well as strategic expertise. The Governing Body works to ensure all its members are actively involved in the work of the Governing Body and its members.
10. As leader of the school community, the Governing Body engages proactively with the Principal in cultivating and maintaining good relations with school constituents, as well as the broader community and exhibits best practices relevant to equity and justice.
11. The Governing Body is committed to a programme of professional development that includes orientation, education and evaluation and leadership succession planning for Governing Body Members.